

# VEGETATED WETLAND

tree



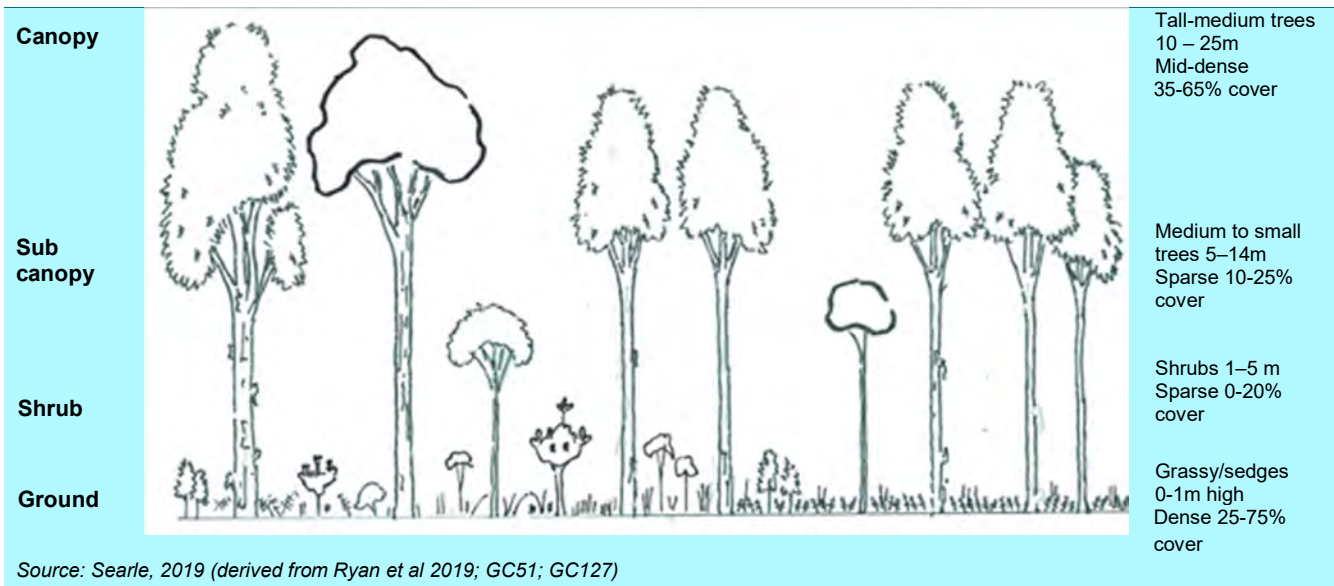
## VEGETATION TYPE 8a

Regional Ecosystem: 12.2.7

Broad-leaved Paperbark +/- Swamp Mahogany +/- Pink Bloodwood (*Melaleuca quinquenervia* +/- *Eucalyptus robusta* +/- *Corymbia intermedia*)  
Open Forest on Coastal Sand

## COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

This vegetation type is a woodland to open forest. It is characterised by a canopy in which Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) is the dominant canopy tree. Low numbers of Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*) usually also occur, while Swamp Box (*Lophostemon suaveolens*) and/or Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) may also be present. This community occurs on low-lying areas which are seasonally inundated, forming vegetated swamps.



The sub-canopy and shrub layers are typically sparse, and include a diversity of small trees and shrubs (including *Banksia integrifolia*, *Acacia concurrens*, *Melaleuca sieberi* and *Glochidion ferdinandi*), although saplings of Broad-leaved Paperbark are often most common. The ground cover is typically dense, with grasses and other grass-like plants (*Schoenus brevifolius*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Themeda triandra*, *Xanthorrhoea fulva*) or Swamp Water Fern (*Blechnum indicum*) being conspicuous in patches.

## Characteristic plant species

Approximately **18 native plants species** have been recorded for this vegetation type. Characteristic plant species for this vegetation type are listed below. Dominant (most numerous) species are shaded. Plants in blue text are listed as [Wetland Indicator Species](#) in DES Flora Wetland Indicator Species List and are adapted to and dependent on wetlands.



Indicates species is a preferred koala food tree\*



Indicates species is a Glossy Black-Cockatoo feed tree species



Indicates species is a City-wide significant species

\* It is noted that in addition to preferred food trees, koalas utilise a range of eucalypt and non-eucalypt tree species for supplemental feeding and other uses such as shelter. These other species are also important and necessary features of koala habitat.

## CANOPY

Upper layer of vegetation exposed to sunlight which creates a canopy that shades lower layers



**Broad-leaved Paperbark**  
*Melaleuca quinquenervia*



Tera Ark ©



**Swamp Mahogany**  
*Eucalyptus robusta*



**Swamp Box**  
*Lophostemon suaveolens*

## SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



**Late-flowering Hickory Wattle**  
*Acacia concurrens*



**Coastal Banksia**  
*Banksia integrifolia*



**Pink Bloodwood**  
*Corymbia intermedia*

## SUB-CANOPY

Tree layer below canopy



**Small-leaf Paperbark**

*Melaleuca sieberi*



**Cheese Tree**

*Glochidion ferdinandi* var.  
*ferdinandi*



**Pink Doughwood**

*Melicope elleryana*

## SHRUB LAYER

Middle layer of vegetation usually made up of small trees and woody shrubs



**Swamp Box**

*Lophostemon suaveolens*

## GROUND LAYER AND VINES

Lowest layer of vegetation. Plant types can include grasses; graminoids (non-woody plants with a grass-like morphology); ferns; forbs (non-woody, broad-leaved, flowering plants) and vines (where present) may extend upwards into the canopy.



**Kangaroo Grass**

*Themeda triandra*  
GRASS (TUSSOCK)



**Common Bog-rush**

*Schoenus brevifolius*  
GRAMINOID (SEDFE)



**Swamp Grasstree**

*Xanthorrhoea fulva*  
GRASS TREE



**Blady Grass**

*Imperata cylindrica*  
GRASS



**Tall Saw-sedge**

*Gahnia clarkei*  
GRAMINOID (SEDFE)



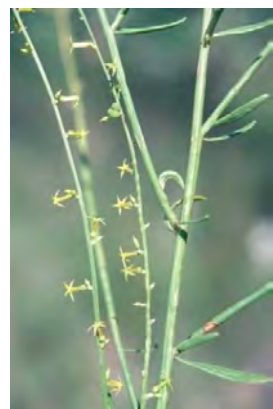
**Common Silkpod**

*Parsonsia straminea*  
VINE



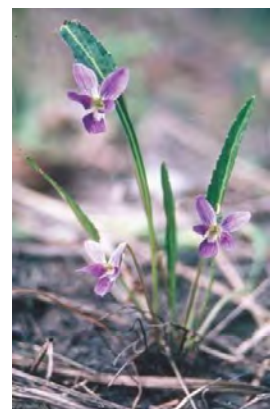
**Feathered Yellow-eye**

*Xyris complanata*  
FORB



**Slender Stackhousia**

*Stackhousia viminea*  
FORB



**Native Violet**

*Viola betonicifolia*  
FORB



**Swamp Water Fern**

*Blechnum indicum*  
FERN

---

## City-wide significant plant species



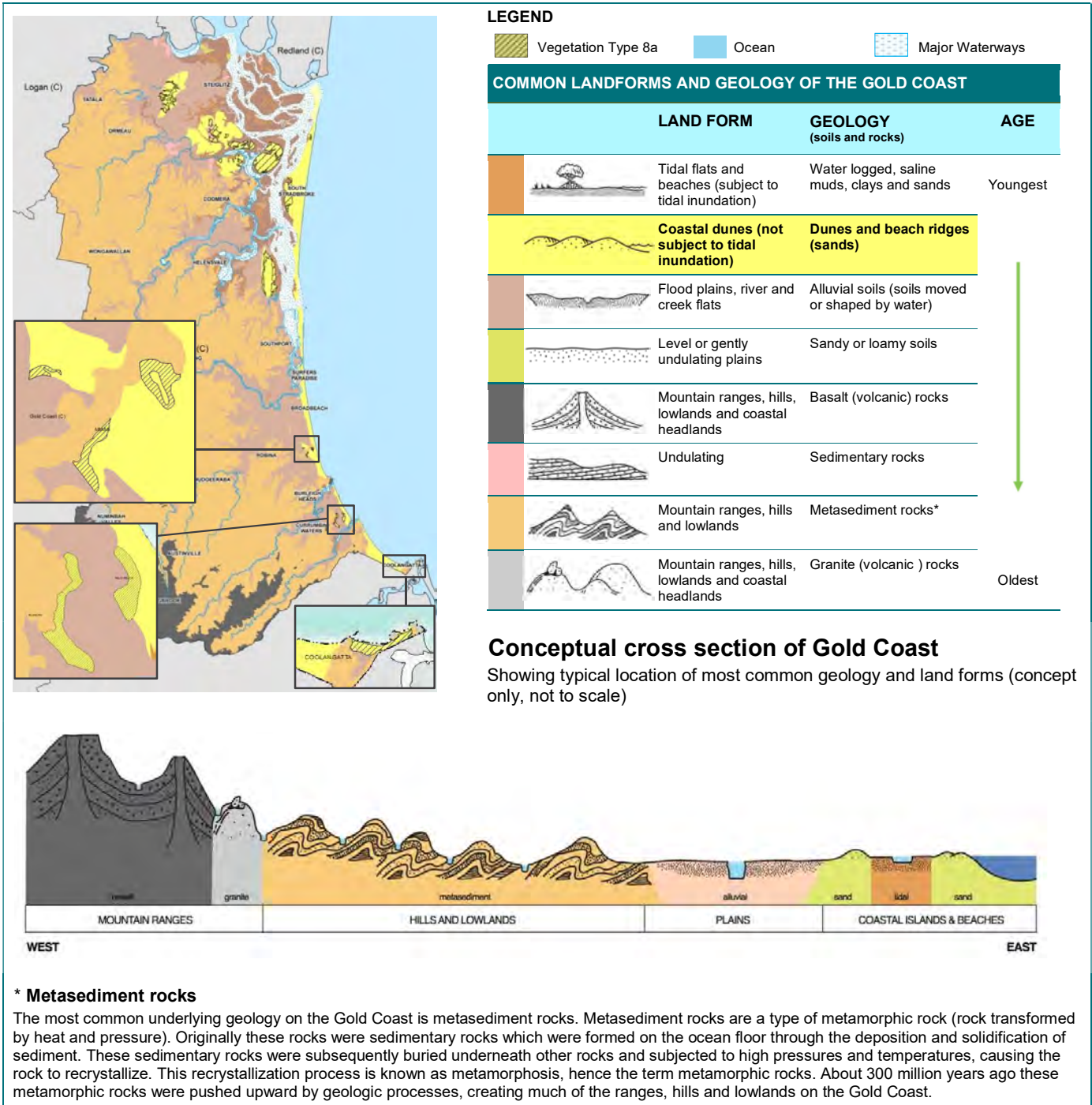
The City of Gold Coast recognises species which are locally significant as City-wide significant (CWS) species. These species are important because they may be threatened, restricted to the Gold Coast, or at the edge of their geographic range. Characteristic species are identified above as CWS species.

## OCCURRENCE

Native plants occur in vegetation communities, which are consistently associated with a particular soil type, landform (shape of the land, e.g. hills or plains) aspect (position on a slope in relation to the sun) and climate.

This vegetation type occurs in low-lying areas of coastal dunes, including swales behind foredunes, and broader sandplains of low dune systems near the coast. Previously widespread, including Staplyton, Alberton, Jacob's Well, Pimpama, South Stradbroke Island, Woongoolba Island, Kangaroo Island, Pine Ridge, Miami, Palm Beach and Coolangatta, it has been partially cleared for canals and other urban development. It typically occurs on old sand dunes in lower areas with good moisture and organic content, particularly dune swales. Broad-leaved Paperbark woodland to open forest on coastal sand deposits forms swamps on coastal sandplains, and often occurs as a mosaic with VT25 (Wallum Banksia woodland) and VT39 (Pink Bloodwood/Brush Box woodland on coastal sand deposits). This vegetation is still well represented on South Stradbroke Island, while small patches remain at Pine Ridge, Pimpama and some of the other northern localities.

## Historic distribution of Vegetation Type 8a



## 2017 EXTENT AND CONSERVATION STATUS

### Gold Coast

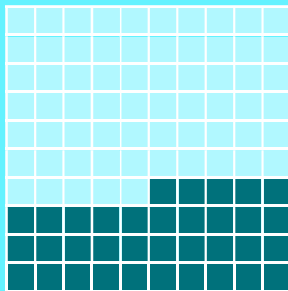
Historically, the least common type of swamp forest. Only 35% of its historical extent remains. The 2017 extent\* of this vegetation type on the Gold Coast was 492 hectares.

**1 HECTARE (HA) = 2.46 ACRES ≈ THE SIZE OF AN INTERNATIONAL RUGBY FIELD**

#### EXTENT (ha)

Historic  
1,391ha

2017\*  
492ha  
35% of  
historical  
extent

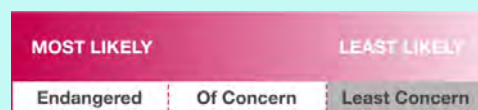


\* Extent as mapped in 2017. Includes remnant vegetation only. Does not include disturbed remnant or regrowth.

### Queensland

The conservation status of vegetation in Queensland is specified under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, which lists this regional ecosystem (RE 12.2.7) as being 'Least Concern'.

#### LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING EXTINCT (in QLD) due to biodiversity loss/degradation



## USEFUL RESOURCES

City of Gold Coast website: Environmental weeds and invasive plants.

Find out more about regional ecosystems at the Queensland Government Regional Ecosystems webpage.

## CREDITS

Content – ngh Environmental and Jason Searle.  
Vegetation Type Photo – Lui Weber ©  
Unless otherwise noted all other photos – Glenn Leiper ©

Version 3, November 2020

## THREATS

This vegetation type was previously more widespread and has been historically cleared. It is subject to ongoing pressure for clearing for urban development on the mainland coastal strip. Large remnant patches on South Stradbroke Island and at Pimpama are important for conservation and require appropriate weed and fire management. This community is subject to infestation by weeds, including Lantana, Pepper Bush, Camphor Laurel, Groundsel and Guinea Grass, especially where disturbance or fragmentation have opened up the canopy layer.

### About common threats

#### Clearing

Native vegetation is protected by Federal, State and local legislation. However, with increasing population growth in the region, Southeast Queensland is experiencing large amounts of vegetation clearing, particularly in areas designated for urban development. Protecting native vegetation on your property is one of the most beneficial things you can do to protect wildlife and the natural environment.

#### Weeds

Environmental weeds are the second biggest threat to our natural environment after land clearing. Environmental weeds (introduced plants that have naturalised and are invading our bushland) degrade our natural environment by:

- out competing native plant species for available nutrients and light
- taking over and transforming native landscapes often leading to local plant or animal extinctions and loss of biodiversity
- reducing the availability of food and other resources for many native animals whilst sometimes benefiting pest animals
- increasing the risk of destructive wildfire
- often being toxic to people and animals.

#### Fire

Very broadly, vegetation types are either adapted to fire or fire sensitive. Fire can become a threat if:

- it extends into vegetation types which should not be burnt e.g. rainforest,
- the frequency and/or intensity of the fire is too high, and/or
- the area burnt is too large.

#### Grazing

The grazing of animals like cattle, horses, goats and feral animals such as deer can cause trampling or loss of diversity of seedlings and compact soil, preventing natural regeneration.

#### Collecting

Unethical and illegal collection of plant specimens in the wild poses a serious threat to some species, particularly orchids, grass trees and epiphytes.

#### Climate change

Changes in temperature and rainfall can have significant effects on our city's vegetation. For example, without consistent rainfall, areas become drier, potentially resulting in higher fire frequency and/or intensity, which some plants and vegetation communities won't be able to tolerate. Plants (and animals) need available space to migrate as conditions change, with high altitude species at the greatest risk as there is nowhere suitable for them to go. Warmer conditions may also provide the right habitat for a greater variety of weeds. As sea levels rise, salt water moves further upstream and vegetation also becomes inundated.